

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 559 - HB 1174**

March 3, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requests the Judicial Council to conduct a study of the current misdemeanor sentencing structure and to report its findings and recommendations to the Clerk of the Senate and the House of Representatives for distribution to the members of the General Assembly no later than January 15, 2010. Authorizes the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to assist the Council.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

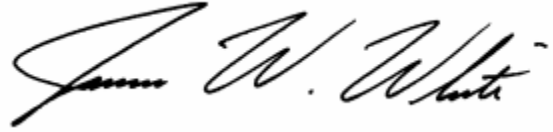
**Increase State Expenditures - \$313,600/One-Time**

Assumptions:

- According to the AOC, the data necessary to conduct a study of the current misdemeanor sentencing structure is not maintained by any state or local government agency. Compiling and analyzing the relevant data from an adequate number of jurisdictions will require the Judicial Council to hire four contract employees. The one-time cost of \$260,000 reflects the cost of four contract people at \$65,000 each (\$65,000 x 4).
- The AOC estimates an average visit of one week per county in each of the 31 judicial districts. Estimate assumes an average of three contract employees would visit each county. Travel expenses of \$49,104 reflect hotel costs of \$26,784 (\$72 per night x 4 nights x 3 people x 31 counties) and per diem expenses of \$22,320 (\$48 per day x 5 days x 3 people x 31 counties). AOC estimates approximately \$4,487.40 (\$0.54 x 2 x 4,155 miles one-way). The total one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$313,591.40 (\$260,000 + \$49,104 + \$4,487.40)

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc